plate of the esclator were lossely held and got shifted under pressure creating a gaping hole resulting in the accident;

(2) The escalator was not upgraded;

(3) The reaction of various functionaries present on the sport of accident was inadequate and lacked sensitivity; and

(4) The treatment meted out to the affected persons was quite inadequate considering the extraordinary nature of the accident.

(c) Four employees of AAI have been suspended and disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against them.

**International Traffic Rights for Public Sector Airlines**

1993. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow international traffic rights to the Public Sector Airlines for five years following their privatization;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is fact that as a result thereof, the private airlines would not be allowed to operate on international flight and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Civil Aviation Policy under formulation seeks to, *inter-alia*, address these issues. The draft of the Policy has been widely circulated for views/comments before finalisation.

**Foreign Consultants for leasing of Airports**

1994. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 459 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th February, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government are appointing foreign consultants to suggest strategic deal in the matter; and

(b) if so, the reasons for engaging a foreign consultants?